

Field Placement Definitions

Cooperating Teacher – a PK – 12 district teacher who mentors and evaluates a teacher candidate during a clinical experience.

College/University Supervisor – a college/university-based educator who collaborates with a cooperating district teacher in mentoring and evaluating a teacher candidate's performance.

Coordinator of Field Placements (CFP) – a district or college/university representative responsible for coordinating student placements for their organization/institution.

Field experience - application of skill, knowledge and analysis in a professional setting.

Intern – a student who works in order to gain clinical experience in his/her chosen field.

Internship - an on-the-job experience that allows the student to apply what has been learned to a professional situation within a close mentoring relationship to gain practical experience. This clinical experience usually occurs at the end of a teacher candidate program. The cooperating teacher evaluates the teacher candidate's performance.

Affiliation Agreement (AA) – a cooperative written understanding of the agreement between the school district and the post-secondary institution to cooperatively work together on an agreed upon project or to meet an agreed upon objective; It is the implementing document containing the set of agreed upon rules of engagement.

Observation – The act of watching a professional for the purpose of collecting data; no interaction occurs between the observer and the individual(s) being observed.

Practicum - A practicum is a college course, often in a specialized field of study, designed to give students supervised practical application of a previously studied theory. This clinical experience usually occurs in the early stages of a teacher candidate's program.

Student/Directed teacher - a college/university student who is teaching under the supervision of a certified teacher in order to qualify for a degree in education; a student in professional teacher education program who is gaining required experience in supervised teaching.